

Impact of Opioids

- Overdose deaths are the leading injury death in the United States.
- The CDC has reported **52,404 total overdose deaths in 2015**, an average of over 144 drug overdose deaths per day. This is up 11.4 % in just one year – from 129 a day in 2014.
- Last year, the mortality rate from synthetic opioids other than methadone (including illicitly-manufactured fentanyl) **increased by 72.2%, and deaths related to heroin increased by 20.6%**. Increases have occurred across all demographic groups, regions and in numerous states.

In South Carolina

- **5,702** patients were discharged from emergency departments (EDs) with issues related to opiate abuse/dependence in 2015.
- **2,398** patients were discharged from EDs with issues related to opiate overdose/poisoning in 2015.
- There has been a **135% increase** in service utilization at state-funded substance use disorder treatment programs for individuals looking for help with an opiate use disorder – from CY 2006 (2,469) to 2016 (5,803).
- There has been a **67% increase** in the number of attempts to reverse opioid overdose conducted by EMS personnel throughout South Carolina from 2013 through 2016.
 - 3,847 attempts in 2013
 - 4,187 attempts in 2014
 - 4,610 attempts in 2015
 - 6,427 attempts in 2016

Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths:

- In 2015, there were **594** opioid-related overdose deaths in South Carolina vs. **311** homicides.
 - **508** overdose deaths occurred in 2014
 - **594** occurred in 2015 (16.9% increase)

Good News:

- In December 2014, the State Plan to Prevent and Treat Prescription Drug Abuse was released. The Plan includes **more than 50 recommendations** for public and private agencies and groups might collaborate to systematically address the opioid epidemic. Over 45 recommendations have been acted on to date.
- In September 2016, DAODAS was awarded **\$3,192,722** in a five-year grant to increase access to the **overdose antidote, naloxone**, by increasing the number of first responders and caregivers who are trained and equipped with the drug in an effort to reduce overall mortality related to opioid misuse. With the help of our partner agencies – the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control and the Fifth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office – more than **2,300 law enforcement officers** have been trained in 63 agencies in over 18 counties to use naloxone across the state so far.
 - **53 overdose reversals** have been conducted by trained law enforcement officers throughout South Carolina since June 2016.
- In April 2017, DAODAS was awarded a \$6,575,623 grant for State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis. With 17 initiatives and more than 60 partners, DAODAS will use these funds to achieve a comprehensive response to opioid issues in South Carolina.